Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Previously Presented): A method of obtaining expression of an antigen of interest in a mammalian subject, which method comprises transferring into cells of said subject a nucleic acid construct comprising a minimal promoter sequence operably linked to a coding sequence for the antigen, whereafter said antigen is expressed in said mammalian cells in an amount effective to elicit an immune response to the antigen.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the construct is delivered directly into a subject.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 2, wherein the construct in delivered by injection, transdermal particle delivery, inhalation, topically, intranasally or transmucosally.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 3, wherein the construct is delivered by needleless injection.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the construct is delivered a vivo into cells taken from a subject.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the subject is a human.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the antigen is a full length protein.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein the antigen is an antigen of a viral, bacterial, parasite or fungal pathogen.

Claim 9. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 7, wherein the antigen is a tumor-specific antigen or an antigen associated with an autoimmune disease.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 7, wherein the antigen comprises a B-cell epitope or a T-cell epitope.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid construct is coated onto carrier particles.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid construct is a DNA construct.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the minimal promoter sequence consists essentially of a human cytomegalovirus (hCMV) immediate early promoter sequence, apseudorabies virus (PRV) early promoter region, a simian cytomegalovirus (sCMV) immediate early promoter sequence or a functional variant thereof.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the minimal promoter sequence consists essentially of the sequence spanning positions 0 to -118 of the hCMV immediate early promoter region or a functional variant of the said spanning sequence.

Claim 15. (Original): Coated particles suitable for use in particle-mediated nucleic acid immunisation, which particles comprise carrier particles coated with a nucleic acid construct comprising a minimal promoter sequence operably linked to a coding sequence encoding an antigen.

Claim 16. (Original): Coated Particles according to claim 15, wherein the carrier particles are tungsten or gold particles.

Claim 17. (Original): Coated particles according to claim 15, wherein the antigen is an antigen of a viral, bacteria, parasite or fungal pathogen.

Claim 18. (Withdrawn): Coated particles according to claim 15, wherein the antigen is a tumor-specific antigen or an antigen associated with an autoimmune disease.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn): Coated particles according to claim 15, wherein the antigen comprises a B-cell epitope or a T-cell epitope.

Claim 20. (Original): Coated particles according to claim 15, wherein the nucleic acid construct is DNA construct.

Claim 21. (Amended). Coated particles suitable for use in particle-mediated nucleic acid immunization, which particles comprise carrier particles coated with a nucleic acid construct comprising a minimal promoter sequence operably linked to a coding sequence encoding an antigen, ~~according to claim 15,~~ wherein the minimal promoter sequence consists essentially of a human cytomegalovirus (hCMV) immediate early promoter sequence, a pseudorabies virus (PRV) early promoter region, a simian cytomegalovirus (sCMV) immediate early promoter sequence or a functional variant thereof.

Claim 22. (Original). Coated particles according to claim 21, wherein the minimal promoter sequence consists essentially of the sequence spanning positions 0 to -118 of the hCMV immediate early promoter region or a functional variant of the said spanning sequence.

Claim 23. (Original): A particle acceleration device suitable for particle-mediated nucleic acid immunisation, the said device being loaded with coated particles as defined in claim 15.

Claim 24. (Cancelled).

Claim 25. (Previously Presented): A vaccine composition containing a nucleic acid construct comprising a minimal promoter sequence operably linked to a coding sequence for an antigen of interest.

Claim 26. (Cancelled).

Claim 27. (Cancelled).

Claim 28. (New): The method according to claim 8, wherein the antigen is selected from the group consisting of hepatitis B virus antigen, hepatitis B virus surface antigen, and HIV antigen.

Claim 29. (New): Coated particles according to claim 21, wherein the carrier particles are tungsten or gold particles.

Claim 30. (New): Coated particles according to claim 21, wherein the antigen is an antigen of a viral, bacteria, parasite or fungal pathogen.

Claim 31. (New): Coated particles according to claim 21, wherein the antigen is selected from the group consisting of hepatitis B virus antigen, hepatitis B virus surface antigen, and HIV antigen.

Claim 32. (New): Coated particles according to claim 21, wherein the nucleic acid construct is DNA construct.

Claim 33. (New): The particle acceleration device according to claim 23, wherein the carrier particles are tungsten or gold particles.

Claim 34. (New): The particle acceleration device according to claim 23, wherein the antigen is an antigen of a viral, bacteria, parasite or fungal pathogen.

Claim 35. (New): The particle acceleration device according to claim 23, wherein the antigen is selected from the group consisting of hepatitis B virus antigen, hepatitis B virus surface antigen, and HIV antigen.

Claim 36. (New): The particle acceleration device according to claim 23, wherein the nucleic acid construct is DNA construct.

Claim 37. (New): The vaccine composition according to claim 25, wherein the antigen is an antigen of a viral, bacteria, parasite or fungal pathogen.

Claim 38. (New): The vaccine composition according to claim 25, wherein the antigen is selected from the group consisting of hepatitis B virus antigen, hepatitis B virus surface antigen, and HIV antigen.

Claim 39. (New): The vaccine composition according to claim 25, wherein the nucleic acid construct is DNA construct.

Claim 40. (New): The vaccine composition according to claim 25, wherein the minimal promoter sequence consists essentially of a hCMV immediate early promoter sequence, a PRV early promoter region, a sCMV immediate early promoter sequence, or a functional variant thereof.

Claim 41. (New): The vaccine composition according to claim 25, wherein the minimal promoter sequence consists essentially of the sequence spanning positions 0 to -118 of the hCMV immediate early promoter region or a functional variant of the said spanning sequence.